

## **CITY OF VAUGHAN**

### **EXTRACT FROM COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES OF DECEMBER 11, 2017**

Item 7, Report No. 44, of the Committee of the Whole, which was adopted without amendment by the Council of the City of Vaughan on December 11, 2017.

#### **7 UPDATE TO RAILWAY SAFETY ASSESSMENT STUDY CITY WIDE**

The Committee of the Whole recommends approval of the recommendation contained in the following report of the Deputy City Manager of Public Works and the Director of Transportation Services, Parks and Forestry Operations, dated December 5, 2017:

##### **Recommendation**

The Deputy City Manager of Public Works and the Director of Transportation Services, Parks and Forestry Operations, in consultation with the Director of Infrastructure Delivery recommend:

1. That Council adopt the outcome of the Railway Safety Assessment Study jointly completed with York Region and other municipalities in the Region; and
2. That the City Clerk forward a copy of this report to York Region and Metrolinx.

##### **Contribution to Sustainability**

This report contributes to the goals and objectives within Green Directions Vaughan, the City's Community Sustainability and Environmental Master Plan, specifically:

Goal 3: To ensure that Vaughan is a city that is easy to get around with a low environmental impact.

Objective 3.2: To develop and sustain a network of roads that supports efficient and accessible public and private transit.

##### **Economic Impact**

The capital cost to carry out a safety assessment study at railway crossings has been identified through the Capital project EN-1990-14 "Railway Crossing Safety Assessment – City Wide".

The results of the Railway Safety Assessment Study identified Category A and B improvements are required at a number of at-grade crossings. The total cost of the Category A and B improvements is estimated to be approximately \$1.02 million.

The Category A and B improvements will be budgeted through the City's annual road resurfacing program. The City is receiving a portion of funds to complete the Category A and B improvements from a Transport Canada Grant through York Region. The funding is estimated to be \$459,139, which represents approximately 45% of the total cost of the improvements.

##### **Communications Plan**

Staff will communicate the outcome of this report to York Region.

A copy of the report will be forwarded to York Region and Metrolinx.

##### **Purpose**

The purpose of this report is to provide an update on the Railway Safety Assessment Study.

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#### **Background - Analysis and Options**

**A Railway Safety Assessment Study has been completed jointly with the Region and other municipalities in the Region.**

Transport Canada, through the Railway Safety Act (RSA), introduced the Grade Crossing Regulations (GCR) in November 2014. The new Regulations are expected to improve crossing safety and reduce the number of collisions, fatalities, injuries and property damage at at-grade road/rail crossings. The regulations imposed new requirements to which municipalities must conform that include a safety assessment at all at-grade railway crossings and implementation of necessary improvements by November 2021.

The City has participated in a joint study with York Region to conform to the RSA. Information was shared with the railway companies in November 2016. The draft report of safety assessment at all at-grade crossings was received from the Region in the summer 2017, which identifies improvements required.

The improvements include four categories:

- Category A: Requirement under the Grade Crossing Regulations; basic requirement of immediate implementation or warning system maintenance issues covered under Article 17 of the Grade Crossing Standards.
- Category B: Requirement under the Grade Crossing Regulations; additional requirement that must be implemented within seven years after the Grade Crossing Regulations comes into force (by November 2021).
- Category C: Requirement under the Grade Crossing Regulations; to be addressed when the affected component is changed (no implementation timeline specified).
- Category D: Other recommendations; not required under the Grade Crossing Regulations but recommended based on guidelines and best practices.

**The joint study identifies five at-grade crossings requiring immediate treatment and eight at-grade crossings requiring improvements to be completed by November 2021.**

Five crossings require Category A improvements. These include the trimming or clearing of vegetation at four crossings (Kirby Road, Doney Crescent, Rivermede Road and King Vaughan Road) and a sign relocation at one crossing (McNaughton Road). These improvements were completed in the summer of 2017.

Eight crossings require Category B improvements consisting of signage and road resurfacing. The locations are outlined in the table below:

- Huntington Road, north of Nashville Road (Road Resurfacing)
- Kirby Road, east of Cold Creek Road (Road Resurfacing and signs)
- Cold Creek Road (Signs)
- Albion Vaughan Road (Road Resurfacing and signs)
- Huntington Road, north of McGillvray Road\* (Road Resurfacing)
- Creditstone Road (Road Resurfacing)
- Doney Crescent (signs)
- King Vaughan Road\* (Road Resurfacing and signs)

Note: \* Improvements will be affected by the future road plan, which includes disconnecting Huntington Road at the rail crossing north of McGillvray and transferring King Vaughan Road to York Region

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The assessment identified eleven crossings requiring Category C improvements, which include property access locations (minimum 30 metres from the crossing to the nearest intersection or access), crossing angle and gradient. All future geometry changes or new developments must comply with the Grade Crossing Standards (GCS) requirements.

All thirteen crossings were identified as requiring some improvements under Category D, which are not required under the Grade Crossing Regulations but recommended based on guidelines and best practices. This includes signage modification, pavement marking modification, and the coordination with the Railway Company to repair crossing and road approaches to provide a smooth surface for drivers and the investigation of potential relocation of pedestrian crossings away from the tracks.

**The City is receiving a grant from Transport Canada equal to 45% of the total cost of upgrading the at-grade crossings.**

The Region, jointly with the local municipalities that have participated in the Railway Safety Assessment study, made an application to Transport Canada for funding for the rail improvement projects. A total transport Canada grant of \$1.48 million was received. As part of this grant, the City is receiving \$459,139, 45% of the total estimated cost (\$1,021,000) to upgrade the at-grade crossings to address the category A and B improvements identified.

**Future planned road changes would affect the improvement plans at the crossings at Huntington Road north of McGillvray Road, McNaughton Road, and King Vaughan Road.**

Huntington Road will be disconnected at the crossing north of McGillvray Road, which is planned for 2018. Therefore, improvements identified for this crossing are excluded in the work plan.

The McNaughton Road crossing is planned to be grade separated with an estimated construction start in 2021. The improvements identified for this crossing are excluded in the work plan.

King Vaughan Road will be transferred to York Region in 2018. Staff will coordinate with York Region staff to complete the required improvements.

#### **Relationship to Term of Council Service Excellence Strategy Map (2014-2018)**

In consideration of the strategic priorities related to the Term of Council Service Excellence Strategy Map (2014 – 2018), this report is consistent with the following Term of Council Priorities:

- Improve municipal network; and
- Continue to ensure the safety and well-being of citizens.

#### **Regional Implications**

York Region will be administering the Transport Canada Grant.

#### **Conclusion**

The Railway Crossing Safety Assessment Study identified improvements required for each at-grade crossing to conform to the Railway Safety Act. It is recommended that staff implement the necessary improvements.

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**Attachment**

1. Location map

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(A copy of the attachments referred to in the foregoing have been forwarded to each Member of Council and a copy thereof is also on file in the office of the City Clerk.)